

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

**NEOALLOCERAEA NOM. NOV., A REPLACEMENT NAME
FOR THE SUBGENUS ALLOCERAEA BENICK, 1934
(COLEOPTERA: STAPHYLINIDAE)
NON SCHULZE, 1918¹**

Hüseyin Özdikmen² and Mustafa C. Darilmaz²

In an effort to reduce the number of homonyms in Staphylinidae, we found a genus group name which had been previously published for another taxon, making it a junior homonym. In accordance with Article 60 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999), we propose a substitute name for this genus name.

Family Staphylinidae

Genus *Plataraea* Thomson, 1858

Subgenus *Nealloceraea* nom. nov.

Alloceraea Benick, 1934. Ent. Blätter, 31, 164. (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae). Preoccupied by *Alloceraea* Schulze, 1918. S.B. Ges. naturf. Freunde Berlin, 1918, 62 (Acari: Ixodida).

Benick (1934) proposed the subgenus *Alloceraea* (type species, *Atheta fiorii* Bernhauer, 1908 by original designation) and placed it in the rove beetle genus *Plataraea* Thomson, 1858 (Coleoptera: Staphyliniformia: Staphylinoidea: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae: Athetini: *Plataraea*). *Alloceraea* is still used as a valid genus group in the Coleoptera (e.g. Löbl and Smetana, 2004). Currently *Alloceraea* includes only one species, *Alloceraea fiorii* (Bernhauser, 1907) (formerly *Atheta fiorii* Bernhauser, 1908) as the type, from Italy.

Unfortunately, the generic name, *Alloceraea*, was already preoccupied by Schulze (1918), who had described *Alloceraea* (type species *Haemaphysalis inermis* Birula, 1895) as a genus of tick (Acari: Ixodida: Ixodina: Amblyommidae: Rhipicephalinae). Currently, *Alloceraea* is considered a subgenus of the speciose genus *Haemaphysalis* Koch, 1844.

Thus, the subgenus name *Alloceraea* Benick, 1934 is a junior homonym of the subgenus name *Alloceraea* Schulze, 1918. Under the Zoological Code (ICZN, 1999), it must be rejected and replaced, and so a new replacement name *Neoalloceraea* **nom. nov.** for *Alloceraea* Benick, 1934 is herein proposed in the present work.

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² Gazi University, Arts and Sciences Faculty, Department of Biology, 06500-Teknikokullar Ankara, Turkey. E-mails: ozdikmen@gazi.edu.tr, mdarilmaz@yahoo.com (corresponding author), respectively.

Etymology: From the preexisting subgenus name *Alloceraea*.

Distribution: Europe (Italy).

Summary of nomenclatural changes:

Genus *Plataraea* Thomson, 1858

Subgenus *Plataraea* (*Neoalloceraea*) **nom. nov.**

= *Plataraea* (*Alloceraea*) Benick, 1934 (non Schulze, 1918)

Species *Plataraea* (*Neoalloceraea*) *fiorii* (Bernhauer, 1908) **comb. nov.**

= *Atheta fiorii* Bernhauer, 1908

= *Plataraea* (*Alloceraea*) *fiorii* (Bernhauer, 1908)

LITERATURE CITED

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